Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report

Saskatchewan Social Services

1987-88

Foreword

Annual Report 1987-88

This annual report summarizes the purposes and performance of the Department of Social Services during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1988.

It is required by provision of *The Department of Social Services Act,* which states:

"The minister shall, in accordance with The Tabling of Documents Act, submit to the Lieutenant Governor in Council an annual report respecting the work performed by the department."

The Report is divided into four basic sections:

- introductory and organizational information
- public programs and services
- internal support services, and
- fiscal addendum

A copy of the Report is available from:

Saskatchewan Social Services
1920 Broad Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V6

Minister's Transmittal

Honourable Frederick W. Johnson
Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of Saskatchewan

May It Please Your Honour:

I hereby respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Department of Social Services for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1988.

Grant Schmidt
Minister of Social Services

Office of the Minister of Social Services
Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan

Deputy Minister's Transmittal

Honourable Grant Schmidt
Minister of Social Services
Regina, Saskatchewan

Sir:

I have the honour to present to you herewith the Annual Report for the Department of Social Services respecting the fiscal year ended March 31, 1988.

Henry Kutarna

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Mission and Mandate

The Mission

The mission of Saskatchewan Social Services is to foster independence of people in need through competent and caring service.

The Mandate

The "Mandate" of Saskatchewan Social Services is to:

- provide financial assistance and related support services to, and promote the self-reliance of, people who cannot maintain their independence
- protect children against abuse, neglect and abandonment
- provide substitute care for children, youth and families in need
- provide court, custody, residential and community services for youth in conflict with the law
- promote independent living for persons with mental or physical disabilities

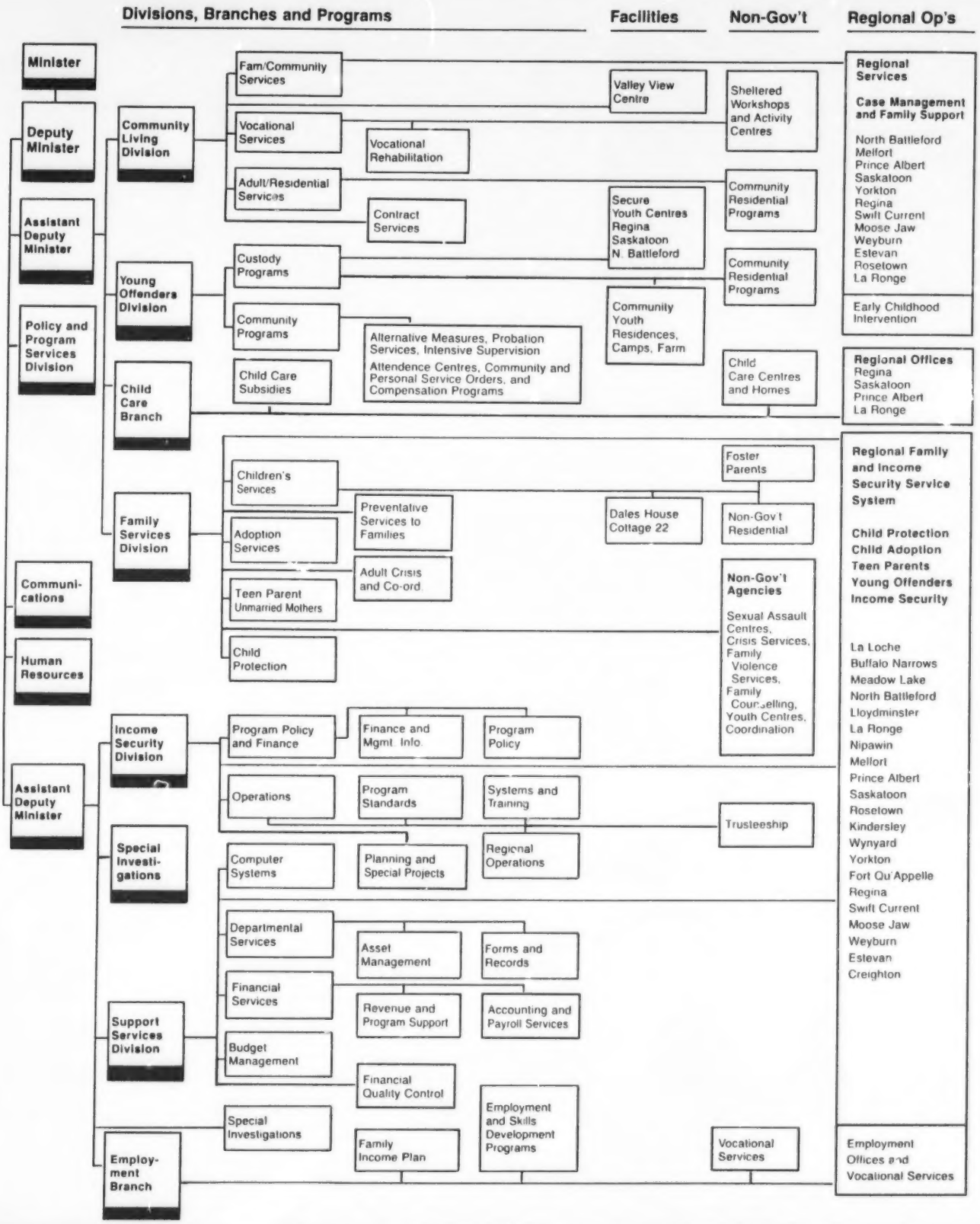
Motto

The "Service Motto" of Saskatchewan Social Services is:

"Competent and caring service for people in need."

Saskatchewan
Social Services

Service System



Family Support Services

The Division provides services in keeping with the following objectives:

- to provide protection for children in a way that strengthens their families
- to work with families by agreement
- to provide options to family members caught in violent circumstances, including emergency support
- ensure the involvement of the community in the provision of services
- to work cooperatively with other departments and family-serving non-governmental agencies
- provision of a competent alternate care service for children who must live away from their families
- to have available a well prepared range of alternate care services
- to provide a full range of adoption services for both the applicant parents and the children who need them
- to provide information and support to parents and their children who were adopted in the past
- provide funding to a variety of non-governmental organizations offering services to departmental clients
- to enhance non-governmental organization management through the Management Review

Highlights

Foster Care

- Increased funding for enhanced foster parent training:
  - a standardized foster parent orientation package was developed and implemented in January 1988
  - training in the role of foster parent, worker and Social Services Regional offices was held in the fall of 1987.
- A foster parent buddy system to offer support to new foster parents was implemented in February 1988.
- Local initiatives to recruit foster homes have produced an increase in homes from 719 in April 1987 to 780 in April 1988 (61 homes; 8.5%) after several years of declining numbers.

Child Protection

- Child abuse investigation protocol approved by the Ministers of Social Services and Justice in May 1987.
- Joint work with other Departments on child abuse services initiated a professional development conference in Regina during March.

Native Child Welfare

- An agreement was signed between the provincial government and the Meadow Lake Tribal Council enabling the Council to provide child welfare services on reserve, subject to federal funding.

Adoption

- An Assisted Adoption program to provide financial support for the adoption of special needs foster children was implemented in November 1987.

Programs

The Department is responsible for child protection services, single parent support services, child care and adoption services. The major means of service delivery is through its network of regional offices.

The department is also responsible for providing assistance to victims of family violence. These services are provided by a number of non-governmental organizations, administered by the Non-governmental Services Branch of the Family Support Division.

Child Protection Services

Purpose

To investigate reports that children need protection as described in *The Family Services Act*, and to offer services to families where children are found to be at risk. Services are offered on a voluntary basis as often as is possible. More severe cases may require provision of alternate care to a child and joint involvement of the police and the Courts.

Services

Reports of child neglect, abuse or abandonment were investigated by Child Protection Case Workers who are located in regional offices across Saskatchewan. In most cases of abuse and neglect, children in need of protection remained in or could return to their own family settings. Services were also provided to parents declaring their own need for assistance with serious parenting problems.

After-hour crisis intervention services were provided by the Mobile Crisis Services, Regina, the Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service and the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative. Staff and R.C.M.P. provide rural coverage.

All initial involvements of families with the program are tabulated annually, on the basis of the calendar year.

Statistics for 1987 were:

- physical neglect 409
- physical abuse 220
- sexual abuse 212
- emotional abuse 17
- parent/child conflict 291
- family support services 675

In addition, 956 cases were investigated. With short-term services provided, clients were referred elsewhere for service or it was concluded that children in the families involved were not in need of protection or referral. There were 2,669 cases of all types being served at March 31, 1988.

The department was involved with the various police services and prosecutors in development of a coordinated service approach for joint child protection and criminal investigations. The goal was more efficient intervention that would cover the relevant facts only once, rather than having children and parents repeat their information.

A number of in-home support services were available to help families resolve problems: homemaker services, parent aide, parent education or lifeskills training, emergency babysitting, recreation fees, assessment, counselling or therapy, including any required travel costs.

In cases where a child required out of home placement and the parent(s) agreed with this, the department sought voluntary agreements rather than initiating Court proceedings. There were 460 contractual agreements between the Minister of Social Services and parents for temporary child care at year end. In these cases, children were usually placed in foster homes while conditions requiring placement were resolved.

Child Care

Purpose

To provide a range of competent alternative care resources for children and youth who must live away from their families.

Services

Seventy percent of children and youth in care of the Minister were placed in foster homes. The remaining 30 percent received services through specialized treatment homes, group homes and residential treatment centres. These services were provided through a combination of departmentally operated facilities and direct funding, grants or fee-for-service agreements with non-governmental organizations. The intensity of service varied in accord with the need of the child.

Children in care by authority of The Family Services Act March 31, 1988

Apprehended: matter before the court	611
Section 8: voluntary agreement with parents for care	460
Section 9: agreement for service, 16 and 17 year olds	83
Temporary Wards: committed to care for one year or less	223
Permanent Wards: committted to care until age of majority	854
Section 44: service for previous wards 18 to 21 years so that education might continue	40
Total	2,281

There was an increase in the number of children coming into care during the year. At March 31, 1987, there were 2,281 in care compared with 2,236 a year earlier. The number of foster homes increased from 719 to 780 during the same period.

Foster parents and other care givers were responsible for the day to day care of children while the Minister remained legal guardian and retained responsibility for planning and financial support.

Departmental staff and the Saskatchewan Association of Foster Parents developed an orientation package which was delivered by social worker/foster parent teams around the province to foster parent applicants. Staff and foster parents are also working together on additional in-service training materials.

Adoption Program

Purpose

To facilitate through a variety of adoption services permanency planning for children and family building for parents, where adoption is the plan of choice. Also, on request, the program assists adult adoptees through information or search to achieve a satisfactory understanding of their birth family.

Services

A variety of adoption services are delivered to meet individual child and family needs in each Social Services office, including:

- **Infant Ward Adoptions**
  61 infants were placed in adoption homes during the fiscal year
- **Special Adoptions**
  formerly the Reach Program, Special Adoptions placed 72 special needs children during the fiscal year.
- **Assisted Adoption**
  effective November 1, 1987, children, wards of the Minister, might have been eligible for maintenance assistance, special services and extended health coverage when adopted into a family.
- **International Adoption**
  22 applications were filed in the fiscal year with one child placed from Korea.
- **Step-Parent Adoption**
  there were 335 such adoptions finalized during the year.
- **Independent and Third Party Adoptions**
  the total of independent and third party adoptions rose to 96 in the fiscal year.
- **Licensed Agency Adoption**
  under a one year pilot project, Christian Counselling Services, Saskatoon, undertook to demonstrate open adoption and non-governmental adoption agency services.
- **Post Adoption Services**
  post adoption services are provided to adoptive parents, adult adoptees and birth parents from the Provincial Adoption Registry located at 2240 Albert Street, Regina.

Statistical Summary

Table 1 Number of Adoptions 1987-88 Fiscal Year

Type	Special Adoptions		Independent and 3rd party	Agency	Step-Parent
	Infant	Infant Other			
Number	61	23 49	96*	5	335*

* reflects number of orders issued by the court

Table 2 Number of Adoption Applications Registered at March 31, 1988

Status	Infant	Special Needs	Totals
Waiting List	749	155	904
Under Study	26	85	111
Approval for Placement	129	35	164
Total	904	275	1,179

Table 3 Post Adoption Service Requests

Non-identifying Information	Search and Contact	
	Adult Adoptees	Birth Family
496	239	152

Table 4 Post Adoption Searches Completed

Reunions completed (mutual request)	158	(35)
Birth parent declined contact	50	
Requests withdrawn	51	
Independent search completed	4	
Birth parent deceased	1	
Unable to locate birth parent	16	
Total	280	

Regional Services

Single Parent Support Services

Purpose

To provide counselling and assistance with decision making to young parents-to-be and single parents, at their request.

Services

This is a voluntary program providing information, referral, counselling and other pre- and post-natal support services to young prospective and single parents. It is a pregnancy counselling service designed to help young, prospective or single mothers to make informed decisions about the future of a child. The involvement of fathers and grandparents is encouraged.

Workers provided relinquishment services through Court or document committals for parents who decided to give up children. Workers then made arrangements for adoption placement for these children.

Services to young parents who decided to keep their children included individual counselling, group meetings to teach specific parenting skills and information about the developmental needs of infants, and counselling with respect to budgets, education and employment. Where the support of extended families was lacking, teen parents were often matched with volunteers for support. The volunteer service was run by the five Family Service Bureaux in Saskatoon and Regina.

To ensure that the department's services were accessible as possible to the public, many were available through regional operations.

Child Protection

Reports of child neglect, abuse or abandonment were investigated by Child Protection Case Workers. In most cases of abuse and neglect, children in need of protection could remain in or return to their natural family settings.

Family assessment, counselling or income support, or referral to alternative therapy, educational, parent aide, homemaking or transportation assistance services, were often provided to reduce risk to children and usually to prevent their coming into care.

In some cases, children came into the care of the Minister.

Child Care

Children and youth in care of the Minister yet able to function in an alternative family environment, were placed in foster homes. The department retained financial responsibility and legal guardianship. Foster parents provided day-to-day care.

Child Care Workers provided counselling, referral and other support services for both children and foster parents. Emphasis continued during the year on maintaining and recruiting foster homes.

For some children with special needs such as physical or mental disabilities or emotional disturbance and for difficult youth, the department provided specialized services and facilitiated care through alternative departmental or community-based residential resources.

Adoption

Parents seeking to place children for adoption could receive assistance with completing the necessary documents.

Persons seeking to adopt children were assessed through an adoption home study, involving a series of interviews and meetings designed to prepare them for the role of parenting.

Single Parents

Single parents or parents-to-be were provided with information, counselling and other pre- and post-natal support services and/or referred to another agency. Support services included orientation to parenting, consisting of visits to teach parenting skills and infant stimulation technique. Counselling on education, training, employment and family relations was also available.

Youth

Regional offices provided special services to youth under a range of programs. In addition to protection and residential supports for parents and teens in conflict, support was also provided to unmarried teen parents and extended educational services to youth who had been wards of the Minister.

Regional services respecting young offenders included alternative measures, judicial interim release, probation, community alternatives, intensive supervision, attendance, and both open and secure custody.

Non-governmental Services

Community Living

Regional services were available for persons mentally disabled or physically handicapped, depending on personal needs. These helped adults or children and their parents to adjust to disabilities, minimize the affects of handicapping conditions and make informed decisions about educational, residential and lifestyle needs.

Workers also assisted community-based, non-governmental service agencies with program design, implementation and management.

Income Support

People who, for various reasons such as chronic disability, ill health or inability to secure employment, did not have sufficient funds to meet basic needs, could apply for financial assistance under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. Assistance was provided to meet the costs of food, shelter, utilities, clothing and other necessities. In some cases, clients qualified for supplementary health services provided through the Department of Health. Other counselling and referral services were provided to lessen or remove the causes of dependency.

Regional offices were responsible for determining eligibility and administering financial assistance to clients. Income security services were delivered within the cities of Prince Albert and Moose Jaw by local social services offices operated by these communities.

Training, Education and Employment

In addition to income support, Assessment/Placement Workers provided certain employment services. Social assistance clients who were able to work were offered specialized vocational or general training, educational and work opportunities, to help them gain or regain self-reliance.

Regional offices of the Saskatchewan Employment Development Program worked with employers in the non-governmental, municipal and business sectors to create job opportunities for employable clients.

Emergency Services

In the event of a large scale disaster affecting large numbers of people, the department's district offices would have been asked to respond with provisions which, under such circumstances, would have included support for food, clothing, lodging or other personal services. The department co-operates with emergency measures organizations toward this end.

Purpose

To manage the grants administration to a broad range of non-governmental organizations which provide family support and income security programs which are mandated, supplementary or complementary to the department's services, and to ensure fiscal accountability and sound organizational management in these organizations.

Crisis Intervention

After-hour crisis intervention services were provided by Mobile Crisis Services, Regina, the Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service and the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative.

Sexual assault services were provided by the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre, the Battlefords and Area Sexual Assault Centre, Lloydminster Sexual Assault and Information Centre, the Regina Women's Community Centre and Sexual Assault Line, and a sexual assault worker with the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative.

Family Violence Services

Services for victims of personal and family violence were provided by the West Central Crisis Centre in Kindersley, the North East Crisis Intervention Centre in Melfort, South West Crisis Services in Swift Current and the Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbors in Yorkton. Two support groups for battered women in Saskatchewan were funded. In Regina the group was sponsored by the Regina Family Service Bureau, in Saskatoon by the Saskatoon Family Service Bureau.

Transition housing services were provided by the Regina Transition Women's Society, the Regina Native Women's Association (Residential Resource Centre), Saskatoon Interval House, the Moose Jaw Women's Transition Association, the Association of West Central Native Women in Prince Albert, the Battlefords Interval House in North Battleford, and Shelwin House, Yorkton Women in Need Inc.

Crisis accommodation for battered women and children was provided by safe shelter programs in Regina, operated by the YWCA Isabel Johnson Centre and in La Ronge, operated by the La Ronge Native Women's Organization Inc., and by a safe house project in Melfort, sponsored by the North East Crisis Intervention Centre.

Trusteeship

Trusteeship Services for clients unable to manage their budgets were provided by the Welfare Rights Centre in Regina, the Saskatoon Self-Help Council, the Prince Albert and District Community Service Centre Family Financial Counselling Program, the Moose Jaw Community Action Society and the Metis Society of Saskatoon Local No. 11.

Counselling and Family Supports

Personal counselling and support services were provided by a number of native family service organizations including the Metis Society of Saskatoon, the Regina Native Women's Association (Community Centre), the Lestock Women's Centre, the Native Coordinating Council (Family Services) in Prince Albert, Buffalo Narrows Native Women, the Dene Kwan Self-Help Council and Housing Corporation (Family Support Centre) in La Loche, the La Ronge Native Women's Organization (Family Crisis Centre), Fort Qu'Appelle Ka-pa-chee Centre (Parent Aide), the Association of Metis and Non-status Indians Riel Local of Regina (Parent Aide) and the Peyakowak (They Are Alone) Committee Inc. of Regina.

Family support was provided by family workers in native friendship centres in Yorkton , Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, the Battlefords, Saskatoon, Regina, La Ronge and Carlyle.

Counselling and Family services were provided by the Family Service Bureaux in Saskatoon and Regina, the Catholic Family Service Society in Regina and Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon, and the Minto Family Life Education Centre in Moose Jaw.

Other counselling services were offered by the Cornwall Street Tutoring Project and the SCEP Centre Society of Regina, the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children, the Friendship Inn in Saskatoon, the Humboldt District No. 44 Home Program (Family Counselling Program), the Merici Centre in Regina, and Christian Counselling Services in Saskatoon.

A crisis nursery program was provided by the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children.

Prevention

Services were provided by the Big Sisters and Big Brothers organizations in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Estevan and Lloydminster.

Youth activity services were provided by the John Howard Society organizations in Prince Albert and Moose Jaw.

Local and Provincial Coordination

Local service coordination was provided by the SMILE Services Organization in Estevan.

The Saskatchewan Human Services Association and the Saskatchewan Foster Parents Association, each provided provincial coordination services to their members.

Management Self Review

The management self-review process for non-governmental organizations, as monitored by the department, continued to assist boards of directors and managers to develop a frame of reference against which organizational, administrative, fiscal and service delivery practices could be assessed. This process served to help organizations meet their commitments in providing accountable, responsive and well-managed programs.

The department assisted volunteer board members and managers of non-governmental organizations to participate in workshops and seminars hosted by the Saskatchewan Human Services Association. These served as a means of providing the required assistance to establish enhanced management practices.

Young Offenders Services

The introduction to Saskatchewan during 1984 of the federal *Young Offenders Act* had a major impact on the social services system, as it pertained to youth. The most dramatic effect was emphasis placed on the development of services specifically oriented to the 12-17 year old young offender.

The Act established that young persons who committed offences were to be held accountable and responsible for their actions, and society would have the right to be protected. It recognized that young persons had rights and freedoms, including those stated in the Canadian Charter of Rights. The *Young Offenders Act* acknowledged that young persons have the right of the least possible interference with personal freedom, consistent with the protection of society. It permitted young offenders to be dealt with through alternatives to court proceedings and institutional confinement, as means of being accountable. It also recognized that parents were responsible for the care and supervision of their children.

The Youth Model

Supporting the Declaration of Principle in the *Young Offenders Act,* Saskatchewan Social Services strives to balance the protection of society with the special needs of young persons. The Youth Model, adopted by the Young Offenders Program Division governs the development and implementation of innovative responses. Young persons are viewed as youth, not adults. Programs are designed to recognize the need for youth to bear responsibility for their actions and to provide the guidance and assistance required by youth. A continuum of services fosters normal youth development through counselling, education, training and work experience, together with opportunities to enhance personal and cultural identity. The continuing responsibility and participation of parents, families, and communities is reinforced by the Youth Model and reflected in the services for youth in conflict with the law.

Alternative Measures

Alternative measures refers to procedures whereby individuals who would otherwise proceed to trial were dealt with through community-based alternatives delivered by non-governmental organizations. This was a non-criminal procedure providing for the referral of offenders who were accused of committing certain categories of offences to a specifically designated program, prior to and in place of adjudication.

While this was an alternative to court processing, it was a formal procedure, visible and publicly accountable, whereby voluntary settlement of an alleged offence was developed, involving the victim and the community. Alternative measures programs operated under the *Young Offenders Act* during the year, in Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Fort Qu'Appelle, Regina, North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Buffalo Narrows, La Ronge, Estevan anf LaLoche. There were 984 youth referred to the program in 1987/88.

Judicial Interim Release

The *Young Offenders Act* provided that a Youth Court Judge or Justice could release a young person prior to disposition rather than remanding that offender to custody. This is called Judicial Interim Release.

Workers provided assessments to the Court on young offenders' identifying possible responses for release, background information on the offender, and ability of individuals willing to supervise and care for youth as "responsible" adults. When considered necessary, intensive supervision for offenders was provided by the department in Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina.

There were 206 youth supervised under this program in 1987/88, and 393 assessment reports prepared.

Community Alternative Services

The Community Alternative Services Program provided the Court with the alternative of sentencing an offender to a specific community program rather than to a period of custody or probation. The Program gave the victim of an offence an opportunity to participate in the proceedings to the extent desirable, with a view to recovering where possible an appropriate compensation for illegal actions against a person or property. The program also provided compensation through community service to society as a whole, where there was no identifiable victim. The Program consisted of Community Service Orders, Personal Service Orders and Compensation Orders. In 1987-88, there were 1,274 Community Service Orders referred to the program and over 43,000 repaid through Compensation Orders.

Probation Services

The duties of youth workers under the Act also included supervision of offenders bound by probation orders, preparation and presentation to the Court of pre-disposition and progress reports, attendance in Court to provide information and advice, and such other duties as the Provincial Director required.

This was the major responsibility of the community component of the Young Offenders Program and was provided to all Courts and communities through the regional service delivery system. The year end caseload in the probation program was 2,254.

Intensive Supervision Program

The Intensive Supervision Program was designed as a specific community-based alternative to detaining youth in custody. Specialized youth workers in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert and contracted community service providers in other parts of the province provided increased levels of supervision to certain youth, who would otherwise have been in custody.

Service providers were hired based on ability, maturity and competence to provide the specialized supervision. Payment to contracted providers was at an hourly rate for specified hours per month.

The program was available to youth awaiting a hearing, as an option to custody at the time of sentencing, while on leave from a custody facility, and when ordered released earlier from custody by the Court. In 1987/88, there were 150 referrals to the Intensive Supervision Program.

Attendance Programs

Attendance programs refers to a disposition available under the *Young Offenders Act* whereby youths may be required to attend a specific facility or program for specific services tailored to their needs. Generally, such attendance would focus on counselling, life skills development and specific kinds of training/ information/education.

In 1987/88, two Attendance Programs operated in Saskatchewan. Rainbow Youth Centre in Regina accepted 52 referrals, and the Family Service Bureau Attendance Program, Saskatoon, accepted 21 referrals.

Open Custody

Open Custody is defined in the *Young Offenders Act* as "a community residential centre, group home, child care institution, a forest or wilderness camp or any other like place or facility". This program required young persons to live in a supervised "away from home" environment (the custody component). In Open Custody, youth were also involved in regular school programs, community recreation programs and regular employment (the open component).

Open custody was provided by Dales House in Regina and Kilburn Hall and Yarrow Farm Youth Centre in Saskatoon; the Community Youth Residences in Saskatoon, North Battleford, and Creighton; department Youth Camps in Kenosee and Prince Albert; and, by the Alex Bishop Child Care Centre at Green Lake, Oskietawin Group Home in Sandy Bay, and the Ranch Ehrlo Society and the Salvation Army Youth Resource Centre in Regina; (non-governmental group homes) during the year under review.

Community Homes Program

The Community Homes Program was developed in 1987 with the mandate to develop sixteen open custody spaces in Southern Saskatchewan and eight judicial interim release homes in the North. As homes were recruited, it was decided to develop each home with the capacity to provide space for either open custody or judicial interim release. In early 1988, the program expanded to include the central region of the province, mainly the Saskatoon area.

Community Homes are a network of private homes, situated in various locations: urban centres, farms, small towns, Indian reserves and in the far North. These bed spaces complement the more traditional open custody bed spaces and also provide judicial interim release services to youth who would otherwise be detained in police cells or a secure facility pending a court appearance. Community Homes give youth workers the option of placing a young person in a resource which is in their area and which best suits that young person's needs. Native operators of community homes were actively recruited, with a greater percentage in the Northern part of the province. The entire Young Offenders system is better able to incorporate native cultural and spiritual components for native youth in conflict with the law.

The 1987/88, the average daily count of young persons in open custody was 145, including Community Homes open custody placements.

Secure Custody

Under the terms of the *Young Offenders Act*, secure custody means "custody in a place or facility designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of a province, for the secure containment or restraint of young persons".

During the year, The Paul Dojack Youth Centre in Regina, Kilburn Hall in Saskatoon and the North Battleford Youth Centre provided secure custody and detention services for offenders. In 1987/88, the average daily count of young persons in secure custody was 134, and the average daily count in detention was 40 youth.

Child Day Care Services

The department provided assistance to families who required help in paying for licensed or approved child day care. These licensed centres and approved family homes were monitored by the department, to ensure a minimum standard of care.

During the year under review there were 351 approved homes providing care to approximately 2300 children between 6 weeks and 12 years of age. Ninety-two centres were licensed for 3702 children ranging in age from 18 months to 12 years.

In order to offset the cost of fees for child care services, the department provided an income-tested subsidy of up to $235 per month per child to assist parents who met eligibility requirements. There were approximately 4250 families who received an average of $213 per month during any given month in 1987-88.

The National Strategy on Child Care, was announced by the federal government in December 1987. Negotiations were conducted.

Community Living Services

The department remained responsible for providing and facilitating community-based services for persons who were physically disabled or mentally handicapped. This was done to ensure that their physical, emotional and social needs were met and to assist many to live and function independently as possible within their own communities.

Social Work and Community Therapy

The department provided case management, individual program planning, staff training, general consultation and community board support services across Saskatchewan. Social Workers handled 2,933 individual client cases, 95 family cases and had 237 private service home operators and 24 private residential service providers on caseloads. Community Living Division offices were located in Prince Albert, Melfort, La Ronge, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Rosetown, Regina, Weyburn, Estevan, Yorkton, Swift Current, and Moose Jaw.

Family Support Programs

Family support services helped parents and their children through the initial adjustment to disabilities; to diminish or eliminate obstacles to normal family functioning which were caused by a disability; to assist families and the community service system in establishing a developmental model for pre-school and school-aged children; and, to assist families in making appropriate planning decisions about educational, housing and life-style issues at appropriate times during development.

Respite services were provided by Resource Homes in Saskatoon and Regina. Families who did not have access to these homes gained access to respite services through the Outreach Program

The department made limited use of the preventive services provision of *The Family Services Act* to provide services in the parental homes of children with severe disabilities, particularly in cases of imminent possibility of the children coming into care.

Early Childhood Intervention Services

The Early Childhood Intervention Program provided home-based training and support to parents of children from birth to five years of age with developmental disabilities. This program was delivered through regular home visits. It helped families and prevented children coming into care. The program was administered by non-profit, mainly parent-controlled community boards. Some local funding supplemented the related costs.

A provincial council associated with the program provided an effective forum for the discussion of ideas.

Residential Services for Adults

The primary objective in providing residential services for adults with mental retardation or physical disabilities was to develop a broad spectrum of options promoting the least restrictive setting possible in each case. Fifty-eight group homes located in 33 communities accommodated 371 adults who were mentally retarded. 52 adults who were physically disabled resided in six group homes.

Approved Private-service Homes provided the degree of care appropriate to meet individual client needs. During the year, 237 homes accommodated 665 persons across Saskatchewan. The department also funded a program which provided respite for home operators, enabling them to arrange for relief staff for reasons of annual or emergency leave.

The Supportive Living Program provided the necessary support services to enable adults with mild mental retardation to reside in their own homes or apartments. There was a total of 137 spaces available within 16 Saskatchewan communities.

Houston Heights, Regina, received a grant to provide attendant care services.

Institutional Services

A Community Living Plan was announced during the year. The closure of North Park Centre was completed February 28, 1988. Most residents were relocated in community living arrangements and some were transferred to Valley View Centre, which continues to provide care for persons who require continuing supervisory, medical and nursing care. As of March 31, there were 688 residents at Valley View Centre.

Residential Placements for Children

Residential placements for children were used only if support services to families didn't generate desired results. There were 71 children in foster homes and 17 spaces in group home programs at the end of the fiscal year.

There were also 11 children along with 31 adults in 20 small hospital locations as of March 31. The Small Hospitals Program was funded by the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan and was jointly administered by the Social Services and Health Departments. Persons accommodated by this program primarily required 24-hour skilled nursing care, had parents or guardians willing to maintain a family relationship, and should have been able to attend a developmental centre educational program where these were available.

Activity Centres

Nineteen locally operated activity centres provided adult day vocational programs for 801 persons with mental retardation and motor or sensory limitations. Programming stressed basic living skills, socialization and recreation, so that clients could develop sufficient social competence to function in a community setting.

Funding for activity centres was cost-shared with the federal government, under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Sheltered Workshops

Twenty-six Sheltered Workshops provided specialized training opportunities for 1073 adult clients with fair motor development or minimal sensory limitations. This program focused on training and production. Clients developed work and social skills until they were able either to reach their potential level of independence or obtain competitive employment. A portion of the profit realized by workshops was returned to clients.

Sheltered workshops funding was cost-shared with the federal government under the Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Agreement.

Activity Programs

As a response to individuals from North Park Centre moving to various communities, a number of new day programs to involve all former North Park Centre residents in appropriate programs were developed. Funds from the Saskatchewan Assistance Program were used to provide activities which ranged from full-time, centre-based activities to integrating seniors into existing local programs.

Employment Support Program

The Employment Support Program provided funding to a number of agencies offering a range of services for persons who were mentally or physically disabled or socially disadvantaged, and who were eligible for benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. These services included counselling and placement in subsidized industries and transitional employment situations.

Projects included; programs offering eligible clients employment in the private, public and non-governmental sectors; subsidization of individual positions within existing non-profit industries and businesses which provide long-term employment alternatives for individuals unable to compete on the regular job market; and transitional employment projects within exisiting organizations offering individuals a chance to develop job skills and work histories and thus proceed into the regular work place. During the year, 1,643 individuals

were placed in work preparation placements, 17 in subsidized indusry and 24 in transitional employment. This program underwent review and will be reorganized during the next fiscal year.

Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons

The province undertook to provide a comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program within the framework of the federal/provincial Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons' Agreement, for persons with mental or physical disabilities. This involved provisions for assessment, counselling and restoration services, vocational training and employment placement for eligible persons. Program consultation and staff development were available for rehabilitation agencies and vocational counsellors.

The provincial coordinator of this program chairs a Training-Selection Committee which met regularly to review and determine eligibility of potential clients referred by many other agencies. The department of Education as well as the federal department of Employment and Immigration are represented on this Committee. Referrals to this Committee are made by provincial government departments and community referral agencies representing the target groups of the Program.

A total of 601 applications were approved under this Program during the year.

Total number of applications approved	**601**
Assessments	
Educational	9
Psychological (private)	15
Psychological (Wascana Rehabilitation Centre)	1
Vocational (other)	19
Vocational – Saskatchewan Abilities Council	101
Vocational – Wascana Rehabilitation Centre	10
Work assessments	71
Other	9
Job Readiness Training	
Adjustment to blindness training	14
Adult basic education	53
Basic skills training	25
Driver training	12
Life skills course	24
Other	3
Tutoring	8
Vocational training	5
Work Experience S.A.C.	37
Work Preparation S.A.C.	25
Post Secondary Training	
Business College	11
Correspondence Course	1
Community College – out-of-province	4
College College Saskatchewan	8
Kelsey Institute	8
Northern Institute of Technology	9
Other	8
Saskatchewan Technical Institute	6
University (out of province)	4
University of Regina	19
University of Saskatchewan	27
Wascana Institute	8
Special Services	
Interpreter services	2
Mobility and communication equipment	8
Medical restoration	20
Other	1
Special equipment and tools	17
VRDP Training-on-the-Job	
Private trades	6
Student Work Experience	1
Training-on-the-Job	18
Breakdown of Disabilities	
Hearing impaired	50
Mental Retardation	166
Substance abuse	23
Learning disabilities	19
Psychiatric disabilities	66
Visual impairment	57
Mobility disabilities	44
Other physical disabilities	176

Income Security Services

Income Security

The department administered a number of programs during the year which provided income support to individuals and families who for various reasons including unemployment, disability, ill health or low income, could not meet their basic needs.

The department also either administered or was involved with a number of employment related programs as part of the government's overall efforts to help develop employment opportunities across the province.

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan

The Saskatchewan Assistance Plan continued as the province's basic income support program. It was cost-shared with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Under this Program, the department provided funds to meet the costs of food, shelter, utilities, clothing and supplementary health services for individuals and families who, for various reasons, had insufficient funds to meet basic needs.

Residents in need could apply for and receive benefits, as well as related information on client rights and responsibilities, at any of the department's regional offices or at the local social services unit offices in Moose Jaw and Prince Albert.

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Financial Cases by Employment Status March 1987

Employment Status	March 1988 Cases	Percentage of Total
Employed	4,313	14.4
Unemployed		
Fully Employable	10,255	34.3
Partially Employable	4,077	13.6
Undergoing Training	2,438	8.2
Unemployable (includes persons who are temporarily or permanently unemployable)	8,811	29.5
Total	29,894	100.0

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Expenditures by Source 1987-88

		Percentage of Total
Municipal Governments	$ 2,037,762	1%
Federal Government	99,640,617	50%
Provincial Government	97,602,855	49%
Total	$199,281,234	100%

1987-88 Average

Case Type	Fully Employable	Not Fully Employable	Total
Single person	5,111	10,247	15,358
Childless couple	626	529	1,155
One parent family	5,226	3,989	9,215
Two parent family	2,838	584	3,422
Total	13,801	15,349	29,150

Employment Development

Saskatchewan Employment Development Program

The department continued administration of the Saskatchewan Employment Development Program during the year, as part of the government's overall job creation strategy.

This Program served as a means of providing productive employment opportunities for employable persons receiving benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. Its purpose was to provide them with work experience and job-related skills and facilitate their continuing participation in the work force.

Saskatchewan business, local government and non-profit employers whose projects were approved under the Program, were eligible for subsidies equal to the provincial minimum wage and related employee benefits for each new job created. Local-government bodies and non-profit organizations were eligible for some essential overhead expenses, as well.

To qualify for funding, employers had to demonstrate:

- that the work to be created would not displace employment which would have existed without program support;
- that meaningful work experience and job-related skills would be provided and existing employees' skills would be considered;
- that projects would provide between 20 and 26 weeks of full-time, continuous employment; and,
- that projects would contribute to the social and economic betterment of the province.

The department operated a number of employer information offices throughout the province to administer this Program. Clients were referred to employers by Vocational Services Units within departmental regional offices.

During 1987-88, 1,407 jobs continued from the previous year and with the creation of 1,145 new jobs over 2,700 clients received work experience through the program.

New Careers Corporation

An additional 100 clients were hired under the New Careers Corporation and carried out activities as contracted through the Department of Parks and Renewable Resources.

Family Income Plan

This program provided monthly income supplements to low-income families with children under 18 years of age. Eligibility was based on annual family income and assets. During 1987-88, supplements were provided to 11,087 low-income families benefiting 24,425 children. The average monthly caseload was 7,542.

Saskatchewan Income Plan

This program provided monthly supplementary payments to persons 65 years of age and over. Benefits depended upon the amount of the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement received. Eligibility was automatically assessed when a senior applied for the Guaranteed Income Supplement and no application was required in order to qualify for benefits under the Saskatchewan Income Plan.

Benefits were provided to 25,703 low-income senior citizens of the province during December of 1987, compared with 23,465 the previous year.

A new *Saskatchewan Income Plan Act,* introduced in 1986 clarified the intent of the program, and eligibility requirements.

The administration of Saskatchewan Income Plan was transferred to The Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment in January, 1988.

Saskatchewan Skills Development Program

In co-operation with the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower, hundreds of clients were referred to a wide range of classes offered through adult basic education and pre-employment skills development, within the provincial community college and technical training systems. This was accomplished under the Saskatchewan Skills Development Program.

Approximately 2,400 students enrolled in one or more classes under this Program. Of these, approximately 75 percent were enrolled in Adult Basic Education or technical vocational programs. The remaining 25 percent were enrolled in community-based programs such as career planning, employment readiness and life skills courses across the province.

Policy and Program Services

Vocational Services Units

The department's Vocational Services Units continued to provide regional referral services to the Saskatchewan Skills and Employment Development Programs, the New Careers Corporation, Saskatchewan Access Youth Employment and Winter Works, as well as other employment, training and educational program streams.

Special Investigations Branch

As part of the government's welfare reform strategy, a Special Investigations Branch of the department was established, reporting to the Assistant Deputy Minister.

The purpose of this Branch was to investigate abuse of social assistance and to recommend charges for fraud where appropriate.

Divisional Objectives

- To represent the interests of Saskatchewan, and more particularly, the department, in federal/provincial and interprovincial issues and initiatives.
- To maximize the amount of federal revenue to which the province is entitled under various cost-sharing arrangements, and for provision of social services to treaty Indians.
- To maximize the ability of the department to respond to policy direction from government and to adapt to changing priorities.
- To promote clear and consistent policy in all program areas of the department, to develop mechanism for ensuring continuation of effective policy processes and to ensure a co-ordinated approach to policy development.
- To ensure program support through provision of information, research and evaluation services and to provide linkages for resolution of inter-program, inter-departmental and inter-governmental issues.
- To ensure a co-ordinated approach to legislative development within the department, and to enable the department to respond effectively to the need for legislative change.

This Division provided overall support for the policy and program development functions of the department including planning, research, program design and evaluation activities. Linkages were provided for resolution of inter-program, inter-departmental and inter-governmental issues. The division was responsible for co-ordinating the department's legislative program and activities, as well as providing technical and policy expertise on regulatory changes, Cabinet submissions and Orders-in-Council. Resource Centre operations also form part of this division's responsibilities.

Federal-provincial relations are handled through Policy and Program Services Division as well. This includes negotiation and administration of federal-provincial cost-sharing agreements, such as the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP), Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons (VRDP), Young Offenders, Criminal Legal Aid and Employability Enhancement Accord. Also included are charge-backs to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for services provided to treaty Indians. Other areas of responsibility included preparation of briefing materials and correspondence for the Minister, Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister on federal/provincial and interprovincial issues, participation in federal/provincial working groups and liaison with other departments and governments on cost sharing matters.

During the year under review, the Division collected $177,787,000 in federal revenue, $162,485,000 for the Department of Social Services and the remainder for other provincial government departments.

Human Resources

Programmatic and Fiscal Highlights

- Negotiated new VRDP cost-sharing agreement.
- Negotiated new Legal Aid agreement.
- Negotiated 1987-88 funding levels for Canada/Saskatchewan Accord on Employability Enhancement for Social Assistance Recipients.
- Automated system for billings to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for children in care.
- Conducted review of revenue and billings procedures for programs and services to treaty Indians.
- Major role as member of the Federal-Provincial Working Group on Fiscal Arrangements Affecting Persons with Disabilities.
- Developed evaluation design for the Saskatchewan Employment Development Program, and signed agreement with federal government to conduct this evaluation.
- Completed program review of the Conditional Release and Intensive Supervision Program (CRISP).
- Completed review of the Employment Support Program (ESP).
- Participated on inter-departmental committee which organized "Forum '87" for Saskatchewan seniors.
- Reviewed and revised policy approval process.
- Research and planning support to inter-departmental team developing strategic response to National Strategy on Child Care.
- Co-ordinated legislative development for department, including legislative and regulatory proposals.

The Human Resources Branch provided advice and direction to the department in all areas of human resource management. It provided expertise in the areas of recruitment and selection, classification, contract interpretation, employee benefits, personnel policy and labour relations. It assisted all divisions in manpower planning, achieving employment equity goals and in managing employee evaluation and appraisal processes.

The Branch coordinated staff development plans, and activities, administered educational leave and tuition reimbursement programs and played a significant role in the delivery of in-service training programs for Young Offenders Program and Family Support Division staff.

The Branch continued to provide assistance to the Public Service Commission in collective bargaining with both the Saskatchewan Government Employees Union and the Canadian Union of Public Employees. In addition it actively participated on inter-departmental committees which addressed governmental needs in the areas of performance management and human resource information systems.

Support Services

The Support Services Division was organized into four branches to provide administrative and financial support to the department.

The Comptroller's Branch controlled and safeguarded public funds by ensuring departmental compliance with goverment policy and generally accepted accounting principles. Automated and manual financial systems were developed, enhanced and maintained in accounting and program areas. Consultative services were provided to evaluate, revise and develop financial management controls. The integrity and quality of financial controls in program branches and divisions were monitored to ensure departmental standards were being met.

The Budget Management Branch managed the department's fiscal planning, forecasting and controls through preparation of the annual budget, monitoring budgetary forecasting and controlling departmental spending as a result of the forecasts.

The Departmental Services Branch maintained an inventory of departmentally held assets, controlled purchasing, co-ordinated space requirements, maintained a stationery stockroom, managed departmental records and controlled the design and acquisition of departmental forms.

The Computer Systems Branch co-ordinated the development, maintenance, and enhancement of automated systems in the department. This included support of the province-wide implementation of the on-line Saskatchewan Assistance Plan computer system.

Fiscal Addendum

Vote 036 — Saskatchewan Social Services Expenditures		
Program Services		
Administration		8,519,977
Income Security		3,011,101
Regional Operations		20,035,746
Family Services		1,309,825
Day Care		876,533
Child Care Institutions		1,606,049
Young Offenders		545,252
Young Offenders Institutions		9,201,360
Community Services		2,444,480
Residences for the Mentally Handicapped		
North Park Centre	3,765,455	
Valley View Centre	16,500,411	20,265,866
Payments to the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation		13,521,472
Grants to Local Authorities and Other Third Parties		
Grants to Day Care		1,244,660
Grants for Community Services		6,588,962
Grants and Allowances for the Handicapped		8,069,112
Payments to Local Social Service Units		1,484,700
Saskatchewan Employment Development Program		7,130,098
Payments to or on Behalf of Individuals		
Allowances for Day Care		11,135,874
Child Care		18,992,427
Payments to the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission		5,831,900
Saskatchewan Skills Development Program		5,849,988
Income Security		
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan		199,281,234
Family Income Plan		18,707,801
Saskatchewan Income Plan – Senior Citizens' Benefits		12,780,710
Total Social Services Expenditures		**378,435,127**